



# TRANSFORMERS WAR WITHIN

THE DARK AGES

3 DEC \$2.95 US

FURMAN  
WILDMAN





# TRANSFORMERS WAR WITHIN

## THE DARK AGES

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### PREVIOUSLY IN TRANSFORMERS: THE WAR WITHIN...

THE FALLEN, a mysterious TRANSFORMER from CYBERTRON's distant past, has returned, recruiting the services of BLUDGEON, MINDWIPE and BUGLY. They begin to turn up the heat, agitating a civil war that has (since the loss of OPTIMUS PRIME and MEGATRON) divided into disparate factions, including the Wreckers and the Ultracons, who clash in the disputed region known as the Tegan Heights. Ultracon leader, RATBAT, unleashes his secret weapon, DEURASTATOR, only for another giant, combined robot, DEFENSOR, to enter the fray...

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INDUSTRIAL QUADRANT EAST,  
THE TAGAN HEIGHTS:

**RATBAT!**

DO YOU  
HAVE ANY IDEA  
WHAT YOU'VE  
UNLEASHED?



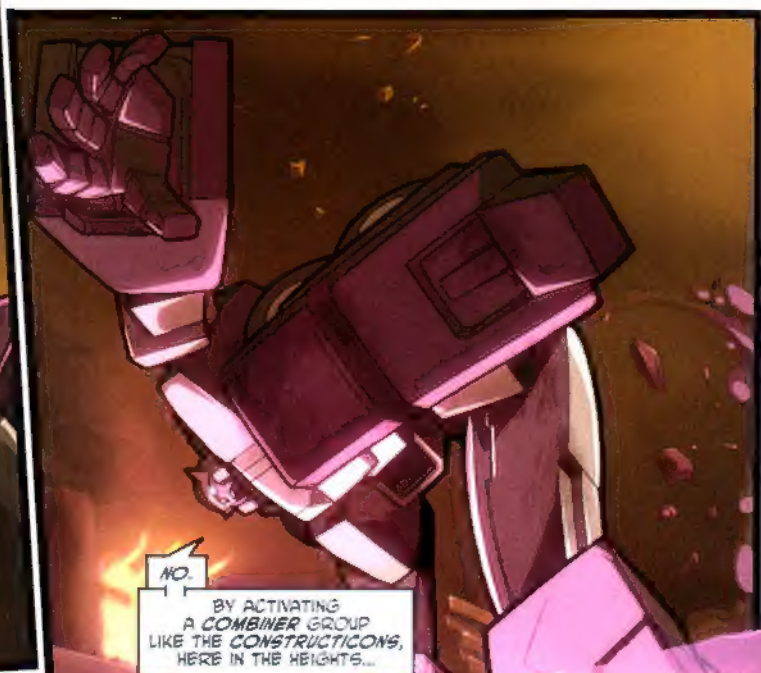






DON'T CITE TREATY VIOLATION AT *ME*, SPRINGER. YOU *WRECKERS* ARE WELL KNOWN TO FLOUT SUCH RULINGS AS AND WHEN IT *SUITS* YOU!

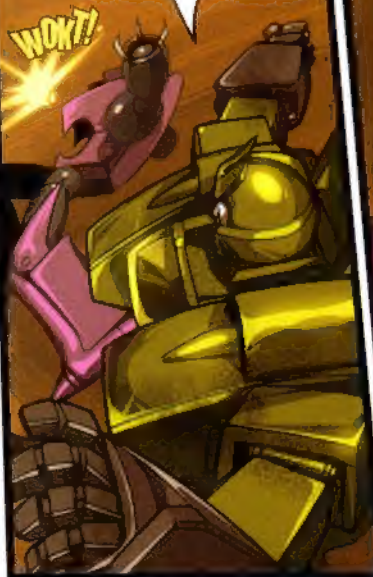
I'M MERELY STAKING MY *CLAIM* TO THIS TERRITORY BY THE MOST *EXPEDIENT* MEANS!



...YOU'RE PUTTING *EVERY* FACTION AT RISK, INCLUDING YOUR OWN *ULTRACONS*!



WE'RE SITTING ON TOP OF ENOUGH RAW, *DESTRUCTIVE* POTENTIAL TO KNOCK THIS PLANET RIGHT OUT OF SOLAR ORBIT...



WATCH!





FORMER HUB-CAPITAL,  
IACON.

VIRTUE'S FORUM.

UNREST?

TRAILBREAKER-  
THAT DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN  
TO DESCRIBE IT.

IT'S FALLING  
APART OUT  
THERE!

WELL...THERE'S  
CERTAINLY BEEN AN  
ESCALATION IN THE PAST  
FEW CYCLES, BUT TRUTH  
BE TOLD, JETFIRE...

...IT'S NEVER  
EXACTLY  
QUIET.

BUT...  
THIS?!

WRECKERS AND  
ULTRACONS BUTTING HEADS  
IN THE TAGAN HEIGHTS...WITH  
DEVASTATOR AND DEFENSOR  
THROWN IN FOR GOOD MEASURE!  
DECEPTICONS MASSING ON THE  
KALIS FRONT, PREDACONS  
SWARMING OVER L-S-C  
POSITIONS IN URAYA.

SHALL I  
GO ON?



A close-up, stylized illustration of a G.I. Joe character's helmeted head. The character has a white helmet with grey and black accents. Their eyes are glowing with a bright blue light. The character is looking slightly to the right. The background is a solid blue color.

RIGHT, WELL...GOOD LUCK WITH THAT LOOK, WE BETTER GO GET CLEANED UP. WE'RE DUE BACK OUT IN--

TRAILBREAKER, BLUESTREAK-- HOLD UP!

**TRAILBREAKER,  
BLUESTREAK--  
HOLD UP!**

WHERE'S PROWL?  
OR JAZZ? I CAN'T  
REMEMBER AUTOBASE  
EVER BEING THIS  
DESERTED.

PROWL  
AND THE OTHERS  
WENT TO CHECK OUT  
SOME UPGRADED **MOBILE**  
**COMMAND BASE** THE  
DECEPTICONS WERE  
TESTING, Y'KNOW?

I SUBMITTED A  
DETAILED REPORT ON  
THE PROTOTYPE, SO...

...**WHY**  
WASN'T I  
CALLED IN?



IACON, THE  
BORDER REGIONS:

THIS IS IT,  
AUTOBOTS. BEYOND THE  
PREDIGEON ARCH...

...AND  
WE'RE ONTO THE  
TYGUN SPAN.

NEXT  
STOP NOVA  
CRONUM.

YEAH, AND WHO  
KNOWS *WHAT'S* WAITING  
FOR US IN THERE?

SINCE THE DECEPTICON  
PURGE OF ANO-CYCLE 6-1-1,  
IT'S PRETTY MUCH BEEN A  
GHOST-STATE.

PERFECT PLACE TO ROAD  
TEST A NEW SUPER-WEAPON,  
I'D SAY. NO PRYING EYES.

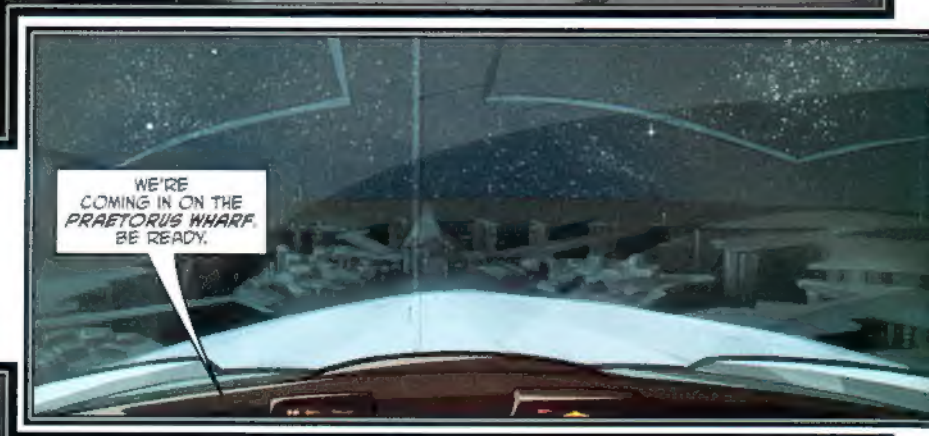
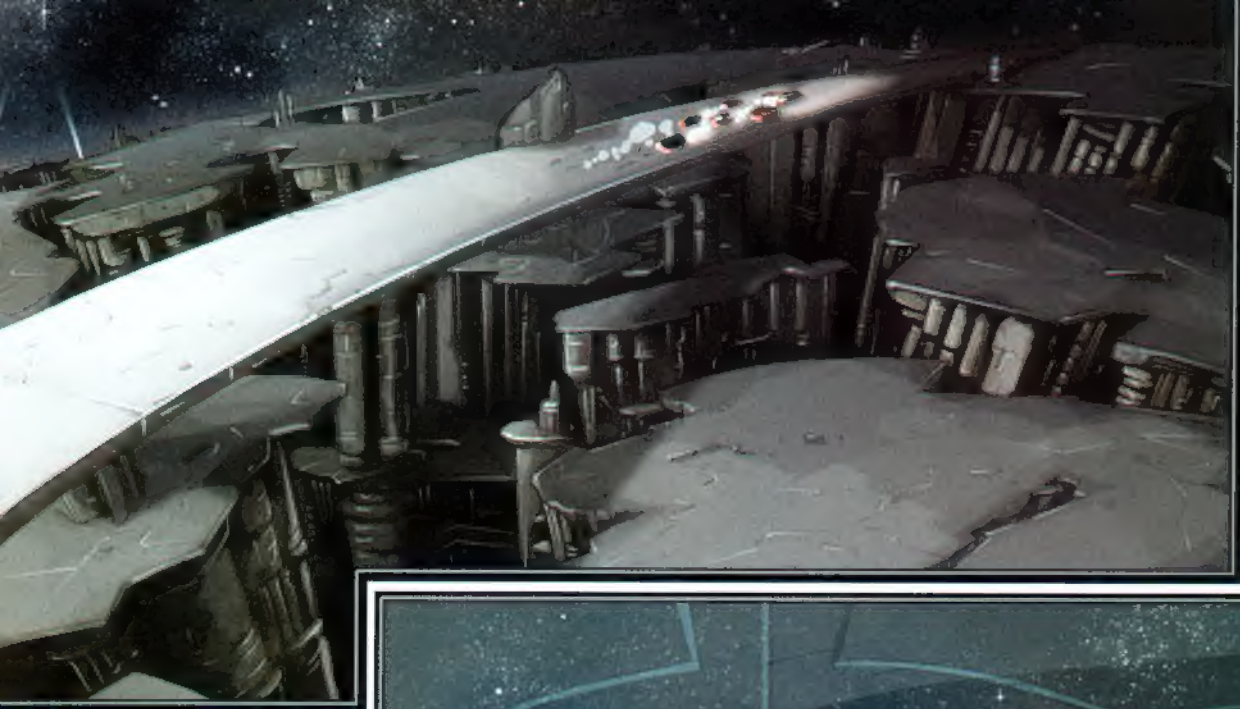
JAZZ, SIDESWIPE,  
SKIDS, CLIFFJUMPER,  
GEARS...

...LET'S  
ROLL OUT.

SENSORS ON MAXIMUM. IF  
ANYTHING'S STILL *MOVING*  
OUT HERE...I WANT TO  
KNOW ABOUT IT.

DEPENDS  
WHAT *IT*'S.



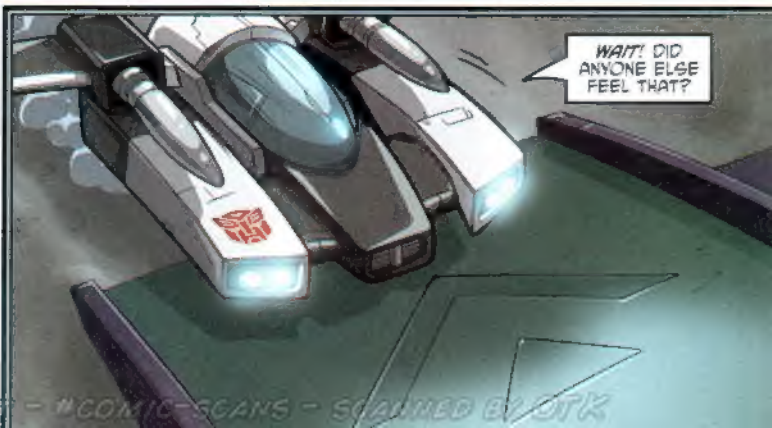


WE'RE  
COMING IN ON THE  
PRAETORUS WHARF.  
BE READY.



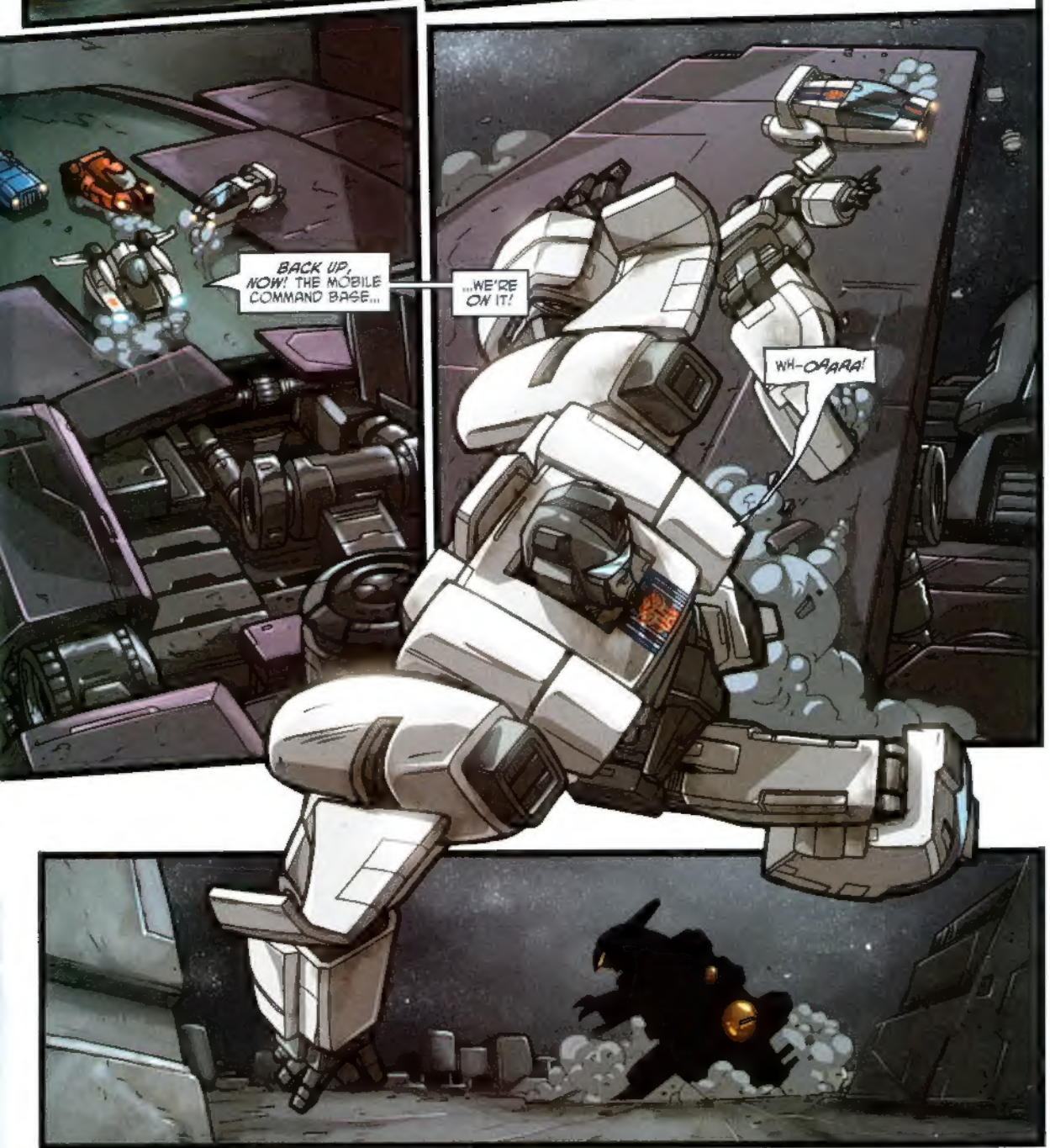
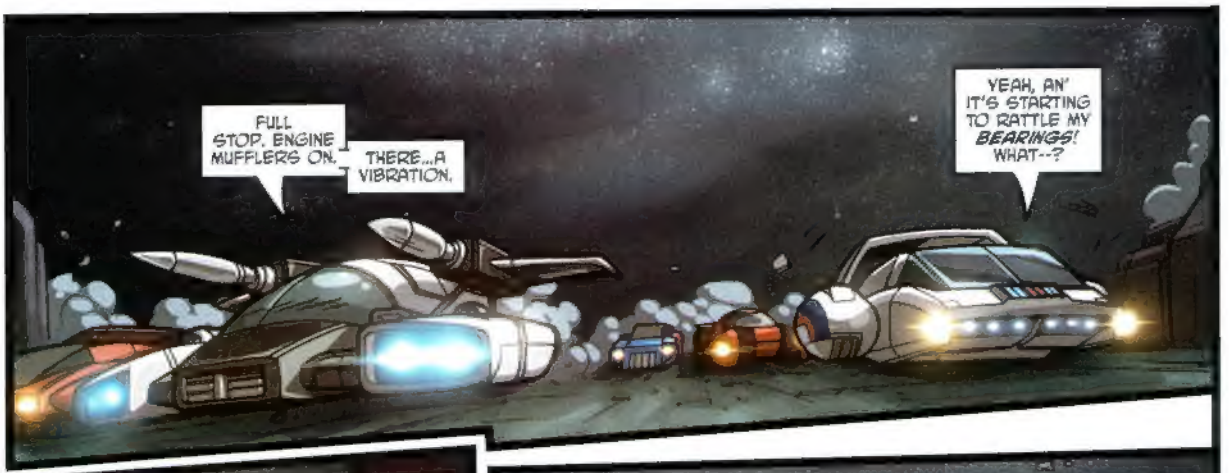
FOR WHAT,  
EXACTLY?

ANYTHING!



WAIT! DID  
ANYONE ELSE  
FEEL THAT?







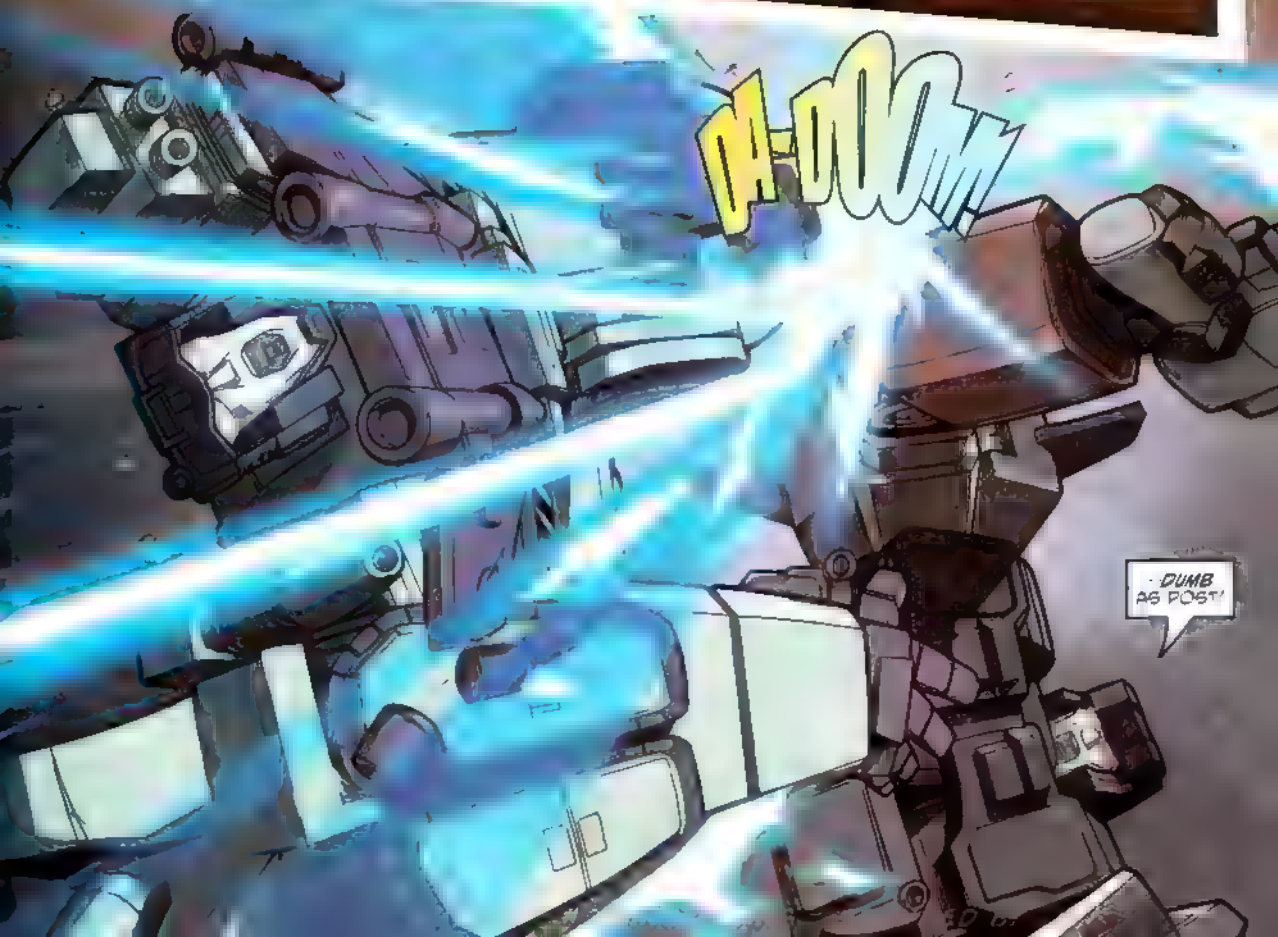
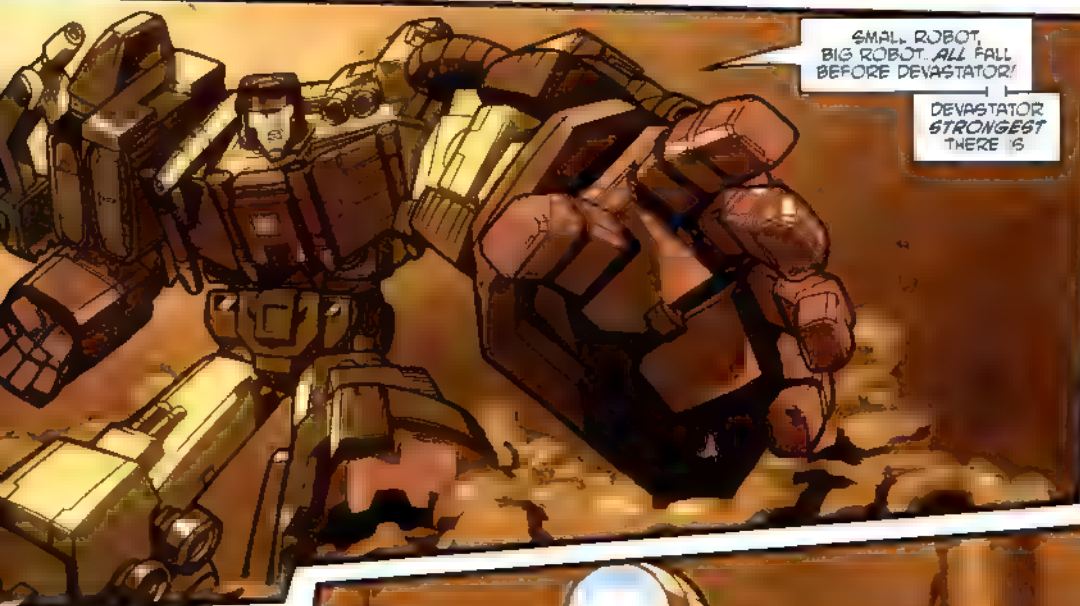


DEFENSIVE FORMAT ON  
*BETA-ZERO-FIVE* HIT  
IT WITH *EVERYTHING*  
WE'VE GOT!

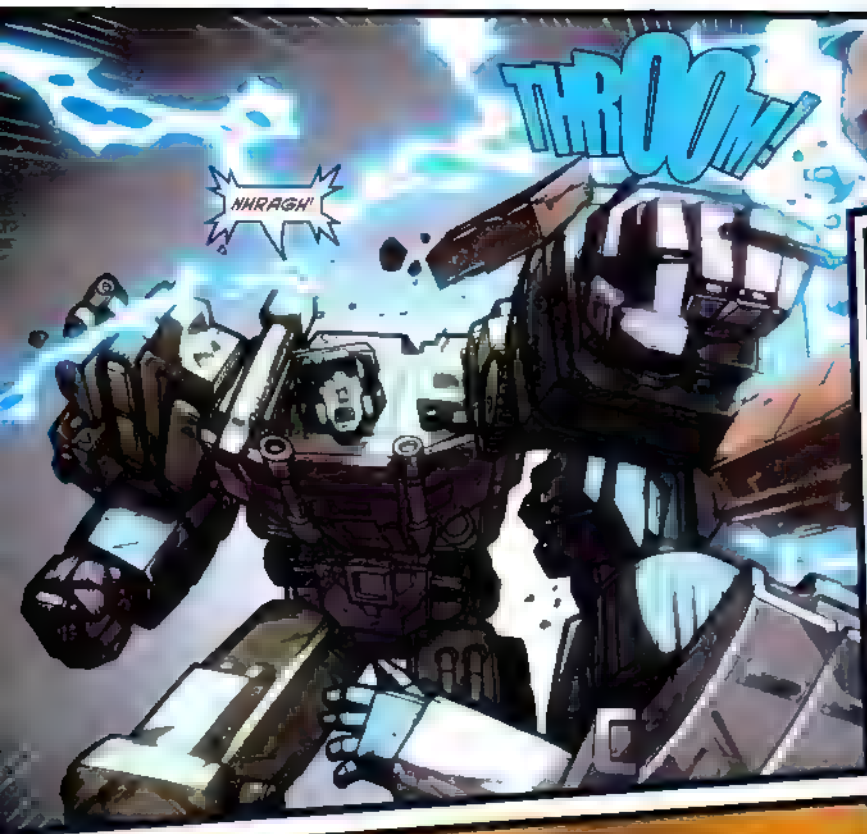
YES, PLEASE  
*DO*. I'M RATHER IN  
NEED OF A PROPER  
*WORKOUT*

IT'S  
REALLY *VERY*  
GOOD OF YOU TO  
*VOLUNTEER!*







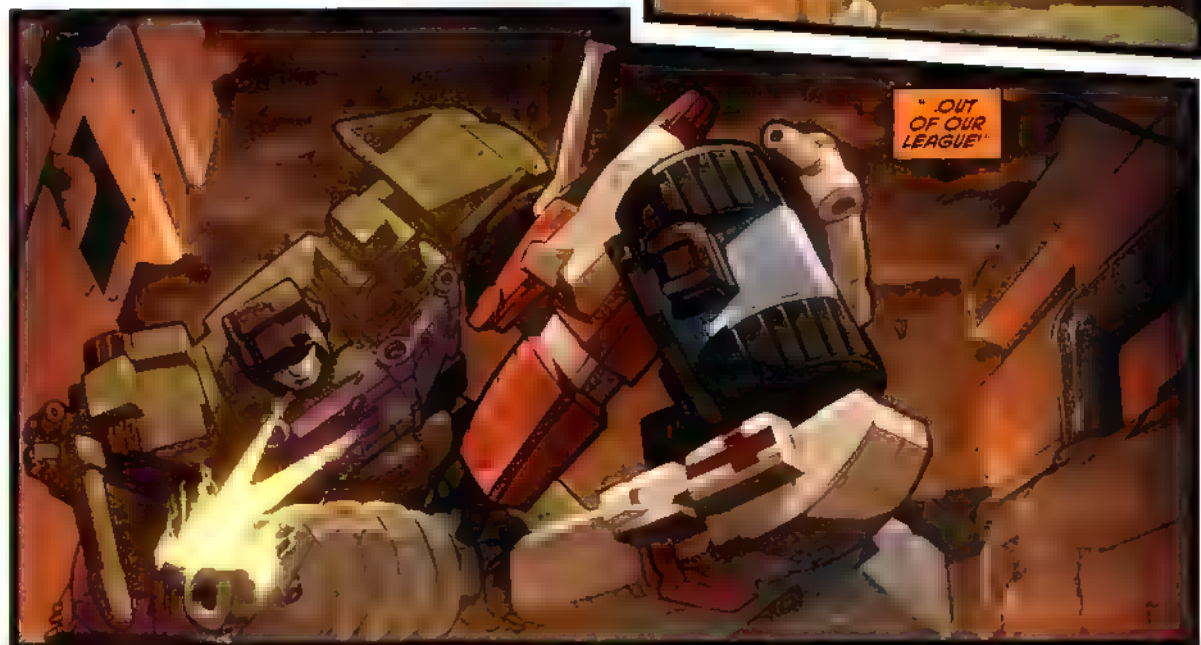


ONLY SO FAR WE  
CAN GO, BROADSIDE,  
BEFORE SOMETHING BIG  
AND CRITICAL GETS  
RUPTURED OR  
PUNCTURED!

WE'RE  
BLOCKED IN  
THIS WAY!

KARATTK!







AUTOBASE, SCIENCE  
DECK LATERAL SEVEN:

COMPUTER ANALYSIS  
OF CURRENT FLASHPOINTS,  
BASED ON INITIATION, FACTION  
AND LOCAL VARIATION STREAM  
ALL KNOWN DATA...

HN

THAT MUCH,  
HUH? AND ALL OF  
IT DEREGULATED,  
UNVERIFIED. IT  
WOULD HELP...

IF I KNEW  
EXACTLY WHAT I  
WAS LOOKING FOR

WITH NO  
**SHARED POOL**  
OF INTELLIGENCE, I'LL  
NOT FIND ANY CONCLUSIVE  
CORRELATION BETWEEN  
ONE INCIDENT AND  
THE NEXT.

I NEED THE  
**OTHER HALF** OF  
THE PICTURE.

...AND A **MIND**  
CAPABLE OF  
DISSEMINATING ALL  
THE VARIABLES!



THE TAGAN HEIGHTS.

NO!

THAT'S  
ENOUGH!

LOOK  
AROUND YOU,  
DEFENSOR.

I THINK WHERE YOU  
ARE I CAN ALMOST  
EXCUSE DEVASTATOR, BUT  
I THOUGHT THEY MADE YOU  
LATER-MODEL COMB NERS  
WITH A TOUCH MORE IN THE  
SMARTS DEPARTMENT!

PROTECTOBOTS.  
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU  
GUYS CALL YOURSELVES?

WE'LL START  
PROTECTING!

THROK!





BLAST  
BLAST!



ER DEFENSOR.  
I KNOW WHAT I SAID,  
BUT I COULD USE  
A HAND

DEFENSOR?

DEFENSOR?



FGHH!



AUTOBASE

FACT IS, THE  
AUTOBOTS STILL DON'T  
TRUST ME. I'VE ALWAYS  
FELT AN *OUTSIDER* HERE.

A *SUSPICIOUS*  
LOOK HERE, A  
*SIDEWAYS* GLANCE  
THERE.

AND WHAT  
MAKES YOU  
THINK...

I WOULD  
BE ANY MORE  
INCLINED TO  
TRUST YOU.

YOU HAD ONCE  
SHARED SO MUCH OF  
THE DECEPTION IDEOLOGY...  
AND YET ULTIMATELY SIDED  
WITH THE AUTOBOTS.

BECAUSE, *SHOCKWAVE*, I  
BELIEVE YOU HAVE ALREADY  
~~REACHED~~ THE SAME  
CONCLUSION AS I HAVE.

SOME *OUTSIDE* FORCE  
IS INFLUENCING EVENTS ON  
CYBERTRON, CLEARLY FOR  
THEIR OWN ENDS.

WE DEAL IN *SCIENCE*  
AND *LOGIC*, BOTH OF US.  
AND THE *LOGICAL* RESPONSE  
IS TO POOL OUR RESOURCES.

THE NEUTRAL  
TERRITORIES, IN FIVE  
BREEMS, DO NOT  
BE LATE!



THE TAGAN HEIGHTS

FIRST CLIP  
YOUR WINGS... THEN  
SEE HOW WELL  
YOU FLY!

HEY!

WHY SETTLE  
FOR ONE WHEN  
YOU CAN COLLECT  
THE SET?

HRG?

BLADES HAS  
GOT HIS ATTENTION.  
FIRST AID, YOU  
READY?

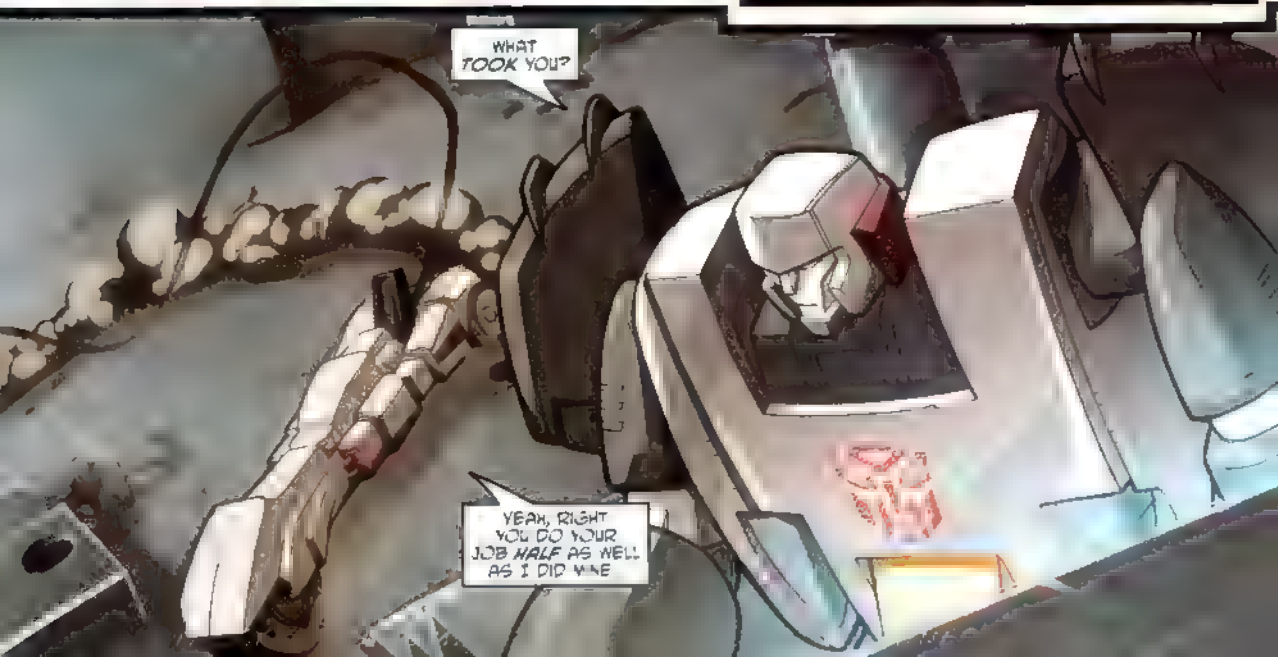
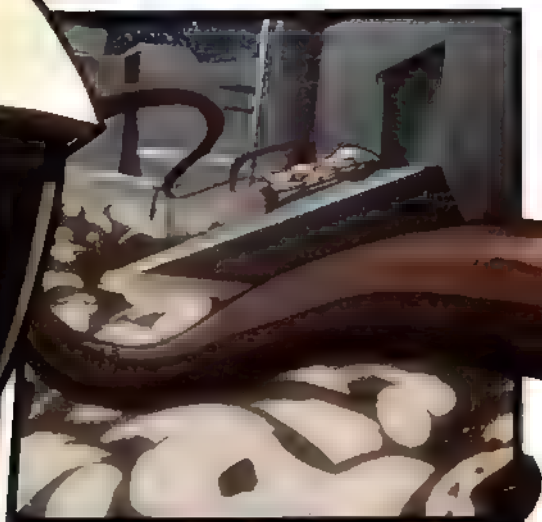
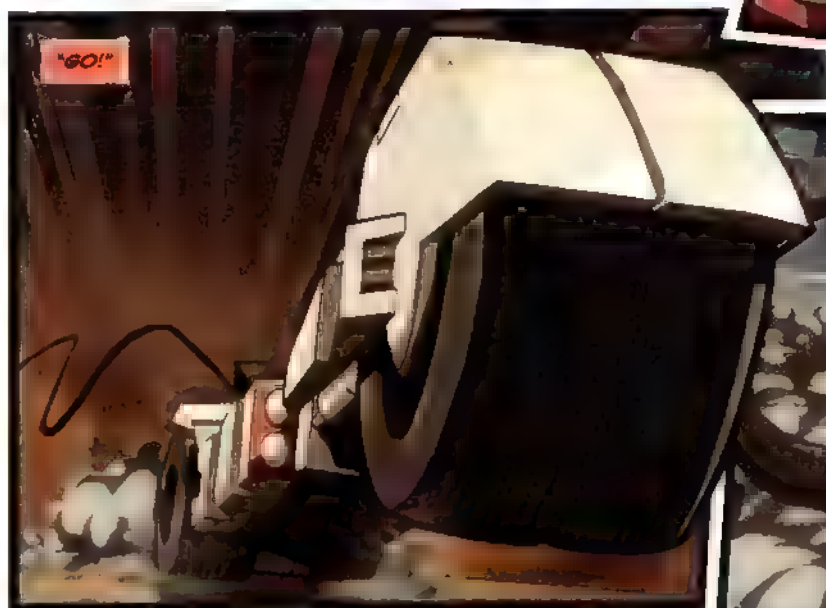
UH-HUH. GET  
ME AS CLOSE IN  
AS YOU CAN,  
HOTSPOT.

GROOVE?

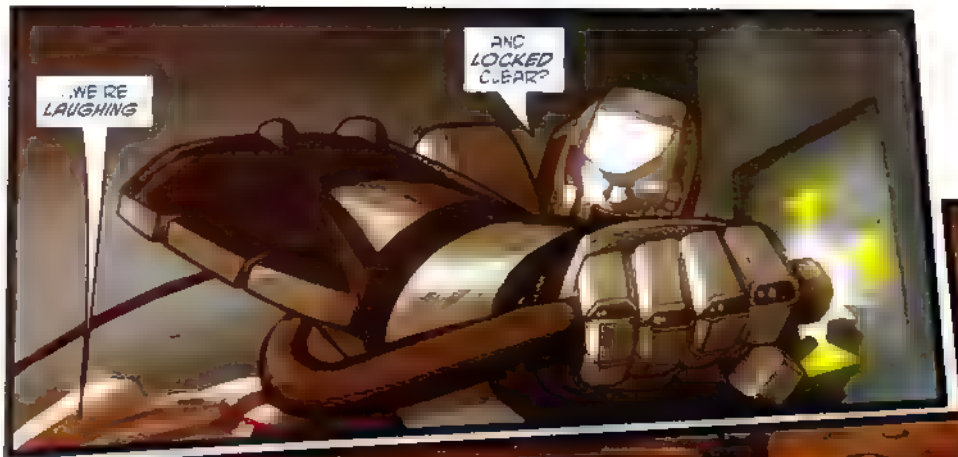
WERE  
READY

UH-HUH.  
THIS SHOULD DO  
US. I'M RELAYING  
THE EXACT  
CO-ORDINATES.









WE'RE  
LAUGHING

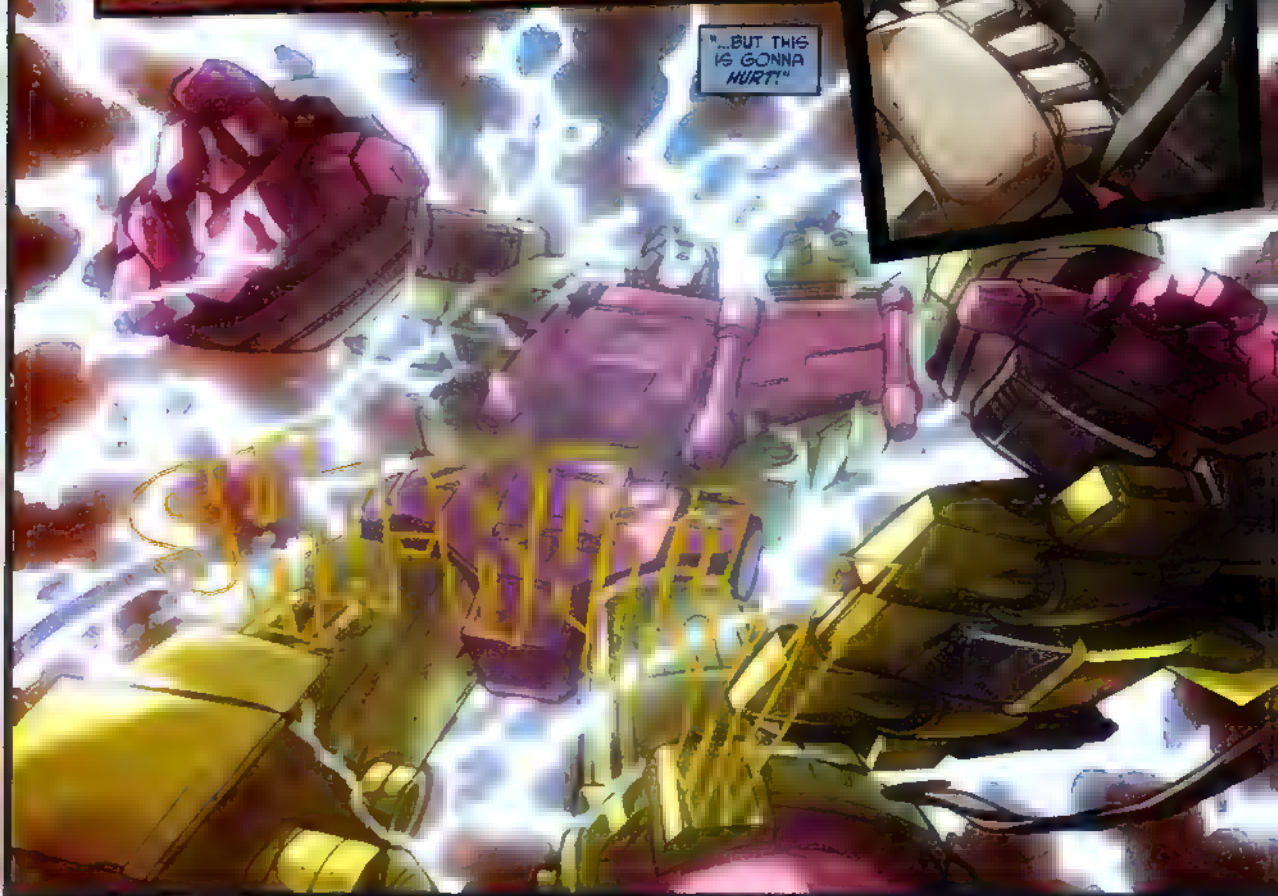
AND  
LOCKED  
CLEAR?



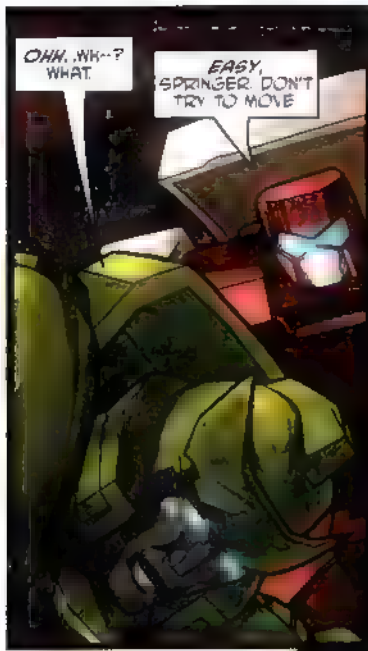
CLEAR!  
SORRY,  
SPRINGER



"...BUT THIS  
IS GONNA  
HURT!"







OH. WH--?  
WHAT.

EASY,  
SPRINGER. DON'T  
TRY TO MOVE.



I'M AFRAID  
YOU CAUGHT THE  
BACKWASH FROM THE  
POWER OUTAGE.

I'VE SET  
YOUR SELF-DIAGNOSTIC  
PROGRAM RUNNING.  
YOU'LL BE FINE.

DER-DEE--  
DEVASTATOR?

RELAX. IT  
WAS ALL TOO MUCH  
FOR HIM.



WE  
WENT TO  
PIECES.

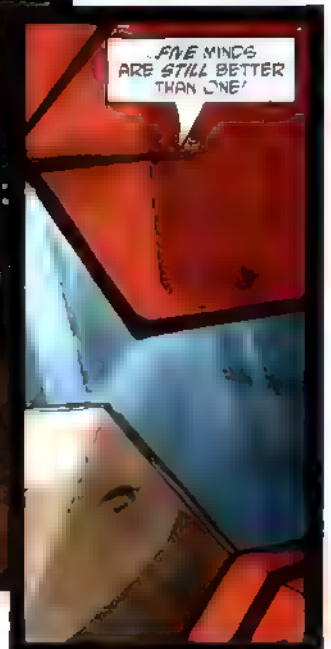
BEFORE YOU ASK,  
WE OVERLOADED HIS  
INTER-LOCK INITIATORS, FORCING  
A SEPARATION PROTOCOL.  
THE NEURAL CONNECTIONS  
ARE BURNED OUT.



R-RATBATS?

GONE. LOOK, SPRINGER--  
YOU WERE RIGHT IT SHOULD  
NEVER HAVE COME TO THIS.  
WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND  
OUR COMBINED SELF  
BETTER. BEFORE...

BEFORE WE RISK  
ANOTHER INCIDENT LIKE  
THIS! WHERE WE ARE  
RIGHT NOW...



FIVE MINDS  
ARE STILL BETTER  
THAN ONE!



ELSEWHERE

ALL AUTOBOTS  
CONVERGE ON THE  
PRAXTORUS WHARF. TIME  
IS A PRIORITY ONE  
CALL. I REPEAT...

PRAXTORUS WHARF

CONVERGE ON  
THE PRAXTORUS  
WHARF...

WE POOL OUR  
RESOURCES.

THE NEUTRAL  
TECHNOLOGIES IN  
FINE DISSEM.

KIKI

DO  
NOT BE  
LATE!

TO BE CONTINUED



# YOUR DW CHECKLIST ✓ DECEMBER

## FROM THE DESK OF... ALAN WANG

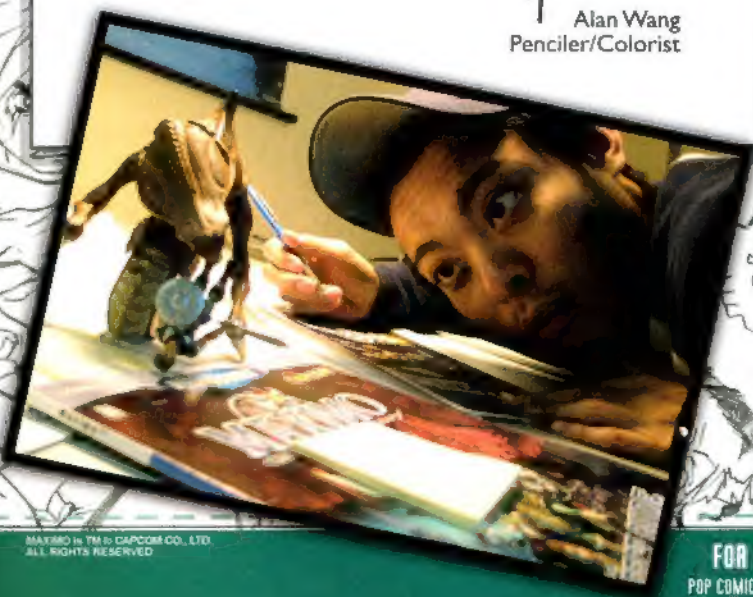
Novemeber 2003

As I sit here writing this at 2am in the morning, all I can think about is how I'm exactly two weeks behind with my Maximo pencils! It's been a grueling 1+ month long battle, I've become an even bigger hermit, and I think I should bathe/shave soon. People are starting to avoid me. All things aside, I'm VERY excited after all these years as a colorist to finally get a stab at penciling (and a Capcom title to boot! Whohoo!). When I first started three and a half years ago I never imagined it'd take me this long. So to say I'm pumped is an understatement, but with that said, this experience has been a humbling one. Newfound respect goes out to all the pencilers I've worked with in the past, I now feel your pain (Can I go back to coloring...? No! I'm kidding!). By the end of this week I'll be done pencils and cracking the tablet. That is, after I find out who stole my tablet pen and replaced it with this broken one...grrr...

Ok, enough from me. I just want to lastly say how grateful I am to Pat & Roger for trusting me with this critical title, and give thanks to James McDonough & Maximo writer Beau Smith for their support. I hope I don't let anyone down. M'goi dailoh's!

Till next endeavor, hang tight and remember:  
"Beauty is Only Sword Deep!!"

  
Alan Wang  
Penciler/Colorist



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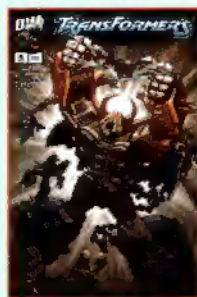
### SPOTLIGHT TRANSFORMERS: GENERATION ONE #0 ☐



Featuring art from two of the most popular TRANSFORMERS artists, this special issue promises even more TRANSFORMERS thrills, chills, and spills as well as revelations behind SHOCKWAVE, SCOURGE, and the most diabolical DECEPTICON of 'em all-the mighty MEGATRON!

by Brad Mick  
Pat Lee  
Don Figueroa

### SPOTLIGHT TRANSFORMERS ARMADA #18 ☐



If you thought the 'Worlds Collide' storyline shook things up, think again. Prepare for even more shocks, chaos and drama, as the saga of ARMADA concludes... yes, concludes... in this action-packed issue. Dark forces are gathering once more, ushering in the staggering, sweeping saga of TRANSFORMERS ENERGEN!

by Simon Furman  
& Guido Guidi

### DARKMINDS: MACROPOLIS VOL.2 #3 ☐

### DUEL MASTERS #2 ☐

### MEGA MAN #4 ☐

### TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES #7 ☐

### TRANSFORMERS #5 /G.I.JOE #5 ☐

### TRANSFORMERS: WAR WITHIN THE DARK AGES #3 ☐


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# DECLARATIONS OF WAR



We're pumped to answer some fan-mail this month, so let's get on with the letters!

Dear Dreamwave,

I just found out about your War Within sequel. I'm really excited about it and can't wait until it comes out. All of your Transformers comics are amazing in many ways, but The War Within series is by far my favorite. It really captures the image of the G1 characters and has many twists and turns. Most of all, I liked it because it was something different. Don't get me wrong-I love all the other Transformers comics, but this one is special. It's not like Armada or the G1 comics; in The War Within anything is possible. Meaning maybe the Autobots will lose the war, or maybe evil will never be defeated.

The War Within opened up a lot of ideas for me. Since the first volume ended, I have written several stories on the Transformers that I hope maybe one day can be turned into a comic book series. I just wanted everyone at Dreamwave to know that I like all the comic books they make, but that the War Within series is my favorite and I can't wait until the Dark Ages comes out this October. Thank you for all the hard work you guys do to produce a high-quality comic book. Bye!

Daniel Aubin  
Connecticut, USA

Whew! Had to take a break from all this hard work to answer your letter, Daniel. It's a tough job, but it's worth it when we hear how much you're enjoying War Within's unique look at Cybertron's past. Of course, we like to think that all of the books have plenty of twists and turns (although WW holds a special place in our hearts too-but keep that under you hat). War Within is set in the past of our Generation One comic universe, so part of the thrill is in finding out how the characters and stories progress from WW to the present-day action you'll be seeing in the G1 ongoing!

And no War Within letter column would be complete without a letter (or two...or a million) like this:

Dear Dreamwave,

Are you going to put out sculptures or toys for this series? I hope so because the designs are better than most others coming out at the moment.

Griffin Lauerman

...And so it goes. This was only one letter of many, all asking the same thing. While we agree that the character designs in WW are the slag (to turn a Cybertronian phrase), there aren't currently any plans for them to appear in toy or statue form. Right now, Hasbro's making awesome stuff like the 20th Anniversary Optimus Prime, so we're not complaining too much!

Hello,

I was wondering if you had a tentative release schedule for this line of comics. I mean just how often you were planning on releasing it. I love the comic, the character designs, the dialogue-everything about it rocks.

Thanks,  
David Casteel, Jr.

Here's the dilly on the War Within schedule: the current volume will be appearing monthly for its six-issue run, ending in March. Of course, you want to know our future plans too, right? Promise not to tell anyone? Okay-since there's a few million years between the era of WW and the time of G1, we figure we have a few million years worth of stories to tell. Expect to see a new War Within series every year for the foreseeable future!

Okay, that about wraps it up for now. Get ready for next issue, where we'll finally see the traumatic childhood accident that gave Starscream the screechy voice we all know and love. (Not really, but check out January's War Within: The Dark Ages #4 anyway!)

# WRITE TO US!

WRITE TO US:  
WAVELENGTHS  
DREAMWAVE PRODUCTIONS  
11 ALLSTATE PARKWAY, SUITE 200  
MARKHAM, ONTARIO  
L3R 9T8 CANADA

E-MAIL US:  
WAVELENGTHS@DREAMWAVEPROD.CA

\*LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR  
LENGTH AND SPELLING.



FACING YOUR FEARS IS A  
NORMAL PART  
OF GROWING UP...

FACING 30 FOOT  
SKELETON DRAGONS  
ISN'T.

# DUEL MASTERS #3

JANUARY



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THE **TRANSFORMERS** GENERATION ONE  
MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE!  
**FORMERS #1**  
**THE ONGOING SERIES!**

THE ORIGINAL  
**ROBOTS**  
**IN DISGUISE**

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